

**Upper Merion Township Economic and Community Development Committee
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for November 16th, 2020**

The Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on November 16th, 2020 WebEx (due to COVID-19.) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andrea Esqueda, Chair
Frank Buttarò, Vice-Chair
Kyle Brown, Staff Liaison
Tina Garzillo, Board Liaison
Clara Martis
Joe Brophy
Anmol Darooka

ABSENT:

Kelly Egan, Secretary
Pam Forster

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE:

Ms. Egan has tendered her resignation and the assignment of a new secretary will take place during the December meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The approval of the October 2020 meeting minutes has been tabled pending completion until the December meeting.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATES:

Church Road Bridge Repair

The repairs to the bridge on East Church Road will be starting November 30th, 2020 with an undetermined end date, which will leave part of the road closed – drivers will need to seek alternate routes.

Mayfield Subdivision

Mayfield contractors presented their subdivision plan to the Board of Supervisors, but due to several discrepancies in details there was no vote held. The subdivision will be revisited at a later date, though it is possible that Mayfield may not receive a contract extension should they not be able to meet the time constraints of the contract.

2021 Budget

The preliminary budget for 2021 was posted to the township website. Ms. Garzillo noted that the budget has been reduced by almost \$3,000,000 (10%) going into 2021 to account for loss of revenue due to the pandemic as nearly half of township revenue comes from commercial and business taxes rather than residential real estate taxes. Ms. Garzillo reminded committee members that any money spent in the township generates funding, so to please be mindful of that fact and try to commit to shopping and services within the township over the holiday season.

Catalyst

Due to the unexpected volume of response from residents regarding the project, it has been formally tabled until further notice while the board tries to determine the next step.

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Township Staff

The township is on a complete hiring freeze until further notice, which includes the hiring of staff to replace those who may be retiring in the future.

Considering the recommendation by the ECDC to the board to establish a role dedicated to racial equity in the township, Ms. Garzillo stated that it would be appropriate for the committee to work with other community boards to establish what that role would like in anticipation for the end of the hiring freeze.

Ms. Garzillo will also be following up with the chief of police, Thomas Nolan, in regards to the establishment of a police oversight committee that was thought to be in progress.

TOWNSHIP STAFF UPDATES:

Comprehensive Plan

The county planning assistance awarded to the township is still in effect going into 2021, so the Moore Park master plan will still be moving forward. At the moment it is still in the preliminary discussion stages.

ONGOING ITEMS:

Small Business

Progress is steady with involvement from the BID to promote township businesses. They are still looking for additional vendors to participate in "Shop Hop", so Ms. Esqueda asked that anyone with business contacts to please reach out and see if they would be willing to participate.

The Small Business Heroes feature has received many nominations in the last week so there will be plenty of businesses to highlight in the newsletter going into December.

Community Pride and Cook Book

Due to end of year constraints, these projects have been tabled until 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Recommendations

An ongoing list of recommendations made to the Board of Supervisors will be kept and revisited at each meeting to track progress and determine any actions that may need to be taken.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 21, 2020 (TBD)

January 2021 (Date TBD) – Reorganization Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Esqueda adjourned the meeting.